

Olympic Torch Due At White House at 5

By Denis Collins
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The Soviets are boycotting. The East Germans, Cubans, Mongolians and Afghans, at least, are staying home. The closer the 1984 Summer Olympics get, the less Olympic the Games appear.

But the torch is still coming. Today, it will burn through the streets of Baltimore and Annapolis, down

Rte. 50 and New York Avenue, past the Hecht Co. warehouse and the Congress Inn. After a brief stop at the



White House, Capitol Hill and the Jefferson Memorial, the 9,000-mile torch relay will continue through Arlington and Fairfax counties (on Tuesday), Flat Lick, Ky.; Ivy Log, Ga.; and Dixie, Tex., before arriving in Los Angeles on July 28.

In Washington, a major problem could be rush-hour traffic. The original schedule called for the relay to arrive at the White House at 7 p.m. But President Reagan, possibly with an eye on the 6 o'clock news, told

organizers they would have to reschedule it for 5.

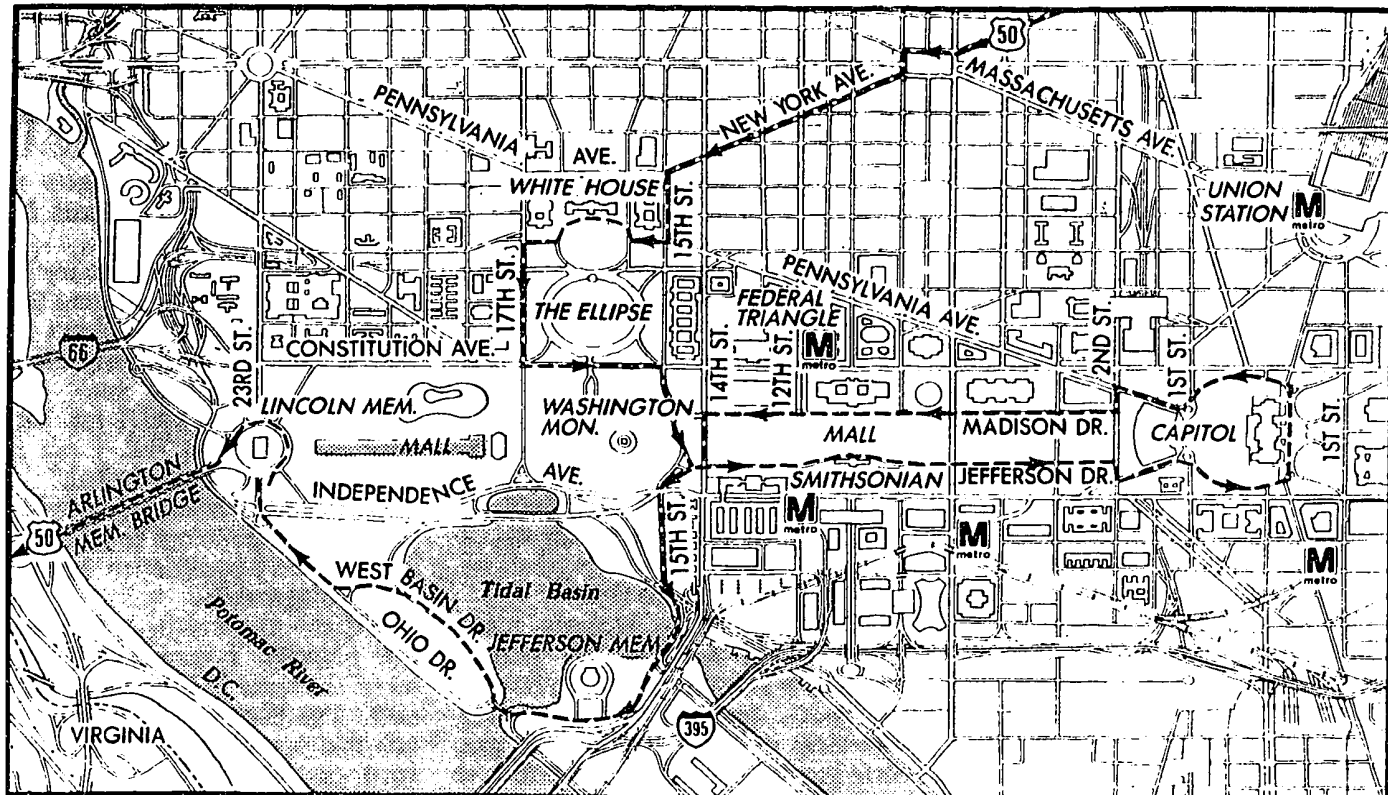
"We know this thing is going to get bogged up with all the traffic," said Dollie Smith, who works for a local public relations firm representing a bank that has sponsored two relay participants. "We're all operating on the seat of our pants. It ain't clockwork, I'll tell you that."

D.C. police, who will escort the torchbearer on his meandering course through the city with two motorcycles and two patrol cars, said they expect no major disruption of traffic. "It's a very small event and they'll be moving at a pretty good clip," said one D.C. traffic official. He conceded, however, that motorists pausing to watch could cause some problems.

Like most aspects of these Olympics, this 82-day, 6 mile per hour parade of more than 4,000 torchbearers and 37 support vehicles has ignited its own critical firestorm.

"Everything else in the Olympics has been commercialized; now they want to sell the Olympic flame," charged the Greek mayor of Olympia, home of the ancient Games. He

See TORCH, D4, Col. 2



The Washington Post

The Olympic torch will arrive in Annapolis at 1 p.m. today and be carried along Rte. 50 and New York Avenue, arriving at the White House at 5, at the Capitol at 5:30 and the Jefferson Memorial at 6:15; it will be borne over Memorial Bridge at 6:30, ending the day at 9:05 at the intersection of Rtes. 29 and 50. On Tuesday, the bearers will leave Arlington at 6:30 a.m. and arrive at Camp Springs via Rte. 50 at 8 a.m.

Olympic Torch to Brave D.C.'s Rush Hour

TORCH, From D1

and other Greek Olympic officials have accused the American organizers of exploiting the very symbol of Olympic amateurism by selling kilometer legs of the torch relay for \$3,000 each.

Peter Ueberroth, the president of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, defended the use of the relay to raise \$12 million for youth sports programs and the Special Olympics.

"It could be used in a poorer country to buy a blanket or a basket of food," said Ueberroth. "I think it is something that will grow."

Jane Fonda, Muhammad Ali and O.J. Simpson are a few of the celebrities who have paid \$3,000 to carry the flame. George Christie, a member of the Hell's Angels motorcycle club, is another.

"We felt people were slamming us," said Christie, who lives in Ventura, Calif. "So we decided we'd get out in front as supporters."

The first Olympic Games were held in 776 B.C., but it was not until 1928 that the idea of lighting an Olympic flame at each Games site began. In 1936, the first torch relay was run from Greece to the Berlin Games. For the 1968 Mexico City Games, the torch was carried from Europe along the route used by Christopher Columbus.

Until this year, the longest torch relay occurred in 1964, when more than 100,000 torchbearers carried the flame 7,000 kilometers to Tokyo.

"It's mind-boggling, but manageable; sort of like deploying an army," said a spokesman for AT&T, which is spending more than \$5 million as the main sponsor of this torch relay. General Motors is providing most of the support vehicles, which include 14 motor homes with

color TV and video games. ARA Services will feed the entourage. And Levi Strauss has provided the running suits.

The relay was originally scheduled to pass through all 50 states, and organizers hoped to sell every kilometer along the way. But the dispute with Greek officials, which began last February, forced a drastic shortening of the route and the premature end to kilometer sales at 4,000.

For a time, it looked as though the flame might never make it to Los Angeles. Greek officials refused to allow the traditional torch lighting ceremonies to take place at Olympia until the International Olympic Committee intervened.

Last week, the torch was finally lit in a brief ceremony, closed to the public by fear of demonstrations. It was then transported to New York by commercial airline in three safety lamps.

The relay began in the United States last Tuesday. Gina Hemphill, a granddaughter of Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens, and William Thorpe Jr., a grandson of Olympic champion Jim Thorpe, ran the first leg together, then transferred the flame to 91-year-old Abel Kiviat, a silver medalist in the 1912 Stockholm Olympics.

It was raining when the relay began. Before the day ended, the news reached the runners of the Russian boycott. Spirits did not exactly soar.

The relay organizers expect to encounter problems along the route, including storms and, possibly, tornadoes. During practice runs, the torches kept going out because of wind and rain. The organizers modified the 2.5-pound torches and purchased a better grade of propane. Now, they claim the flame will stay lit in winds up to 55 mph.